

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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EM O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND OAS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DAR ES SALAAM INFO LISBON MAR# 2,
FROM SECSTATE REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

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E. O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: OAS

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND OAS

REF: DAR' S 656 (NOT SENT LISBON)

BEGIN SUMMARY: OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL PRESENTLY CONSIDERING
PORTUGUESE APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS.
THOUGH IT FACES ROUGH SLEDDING, APPLICATION WILL PROBABLY
WIN APPROVAL OVER OBJECTIONS OF CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH
MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. " RUMOR" CITED REFTEL IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT: PORTU-
GUESE APPLIED EARLY LAST MONTH FOR PERMANENT OBSERVER
STATUS AT OAS, A TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ORGANIZATION
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RESERVED FOR (A) NON- MEMBER AMERICAN STATES AND (B) NON-AMERICAN STATES WHICH COOPERATE IN PROGRAMS OF THE ORGANIZATION (READ: PROVIDE FINANCIAL OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA THROUGH THE OAS).

2. TO DATE, FOLLOWING NON- AMERICAN STATES HAVE BEEN ACCORDED PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS: ISRAEL, ITALY, SPAIN, FRANCE, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, AND WEST GERMANY. APPLICATIONS FROM PORTUGAL AND GREAT BRITAIN ARE PENDING.

3. PORTUGAL' S CASE HAS PROVIDED FIRST INSTANCE OF OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION TO A PERMANENT OBSERVER APPLICATION, ALTHOUGH COMING AS NO SURPRISE. THREE BLACK CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS-- JAMAICA, BARBADOS, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO-- HAVE INITIALLY TAKEN POSITION THAT PORTUGAL' S COOPERATION WITH OAS IS SO MODEST AS TO CAST DOUBT ON ITS QUALIFICATIONS. THOUGH MENTIONED OBLIQUELY BY OTHERS, ONLY BARBADOS HAS BASED OBJECTIONS SQUARELY ON PORTUGAL' S AFRICAN POLICY.

4. APPLICATION HAS NOW BEEN REFERRED TO COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS. MORE UNPLEASANTNESS AWAITS PORTUGAL THERE, BUT WE EXPECT ITS APPLICATION TO BE APPROVED WHEN FINAL VOTE TAKEN (POSSIBLY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK).

5. U. S. WILL VOTE IN FAVOR OF GRANTING PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS TO PORTUGAL, EXPLAINING IF NECESSARY THAT WHILE WE DO NOT APPROVE OF PORTUGAL' S AFRICAN POLICY WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT ISSUE GERMANE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. RUSH UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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